

MEETING MINUTES
Ashland County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting
Thursday January 15, 2015 10:30am
Ashland County Extension Office

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Ortman at 10:33 am

Members Present: Charlie Ortman, Kathy Schutte, George Mika, Norm Couture, and Ken Lundquist

Others Present: Tom Wojciechowski, Doug Liphart, Amy Tromberg, Kathy Beeksma, and Pete Russo

Approval of Minutes

Ken moved to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2014 meeting. George seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comments

- Pete & Charlie – Pig CAFO, get regulations passed ASAP (Pete left)
- Charlie – regulate and insist on things we know work, Agricultural Enterprise Zones
- Put CAFO on next agenda and have Jason & Tom Fratt here

Agent Reports

- **Written reports submitted and agents in attendance gave a highlight of their work:**

<u>CNRED</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported on lengthy Annual Reporting processes that Tom, Doug & Kathy have to do.
<u>4-H & Youth</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Mike Wiggins this week regarding Bad River FRTEP position description. • Involved in a local coalition regarding underused trails; get different agencies and volunteers to talk and fix up these trails. • Superior Days, 5 youth delegates going, will job shadow in food science labs.
<u>Family Living / WNEP</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has put together a schedule of educational events, including Ashland Parents Together class coming up in Feb at LSP. Relationship classes in Feb & March. • USA Today, reported 50 poorest counties and Ashland County was Wisconsin's.

Handouts to board included: Matt's agent report, Lake Superior Farming brochure (George going on Fri), 2013 annual report, Ashland Parents Together flyer, and Jeff's Comprehensive Plan webinar notes from 1/14/2015.

1. Comprehensive Planning Review

- Charlie, George, April Kroner, Tom Fratt, Jeff, Tom, Todd – sat in on webinar on Comprehensive Planning Wed 1/14/2015 and where do we go from here. Handed out Jeff Beirl's notes and list of who was involved in 2006.
- Ties to Farmland Preservation Plan and Land & Water Preservation Plan
- Oversight committee: Ag & Ex board, a couple people from Zoning, Gary Mertig, Rick Korpela, Tom Fratt, Larry Hildebrandt, forestry person
- Get a memo to all of the committee chairs
- Can Pete appoint this? George said yes, ad hoc committee. See if Pete has other member ideas?
- Send a memo to the Towns, this is what we are going to do, would you be interested in sitting on this or what is your township going to look like... Tom emailed every clerk a

month or so ago about Balsam Lake event, ask to be on the town's next agenda? If no response, have someone actually attend meeting. Send mail to the chair; email to the clerk.

2. Superior Days

- Superior Days registration deadline is 1-20-2014.
- Matt MacKenzie is the only one going from the County Board. Tom and Doug are going from the UW-Extension office.

3. Energy Independence Updates

- Tom, Doug & Charlie met again. Tom and Bobbi Rongstad, an Energy Advisor with Focus on Energy, are meeting on Monday, support for energy efficiency.
- There are some more grant opportunities to look into.
- Tom shared pictures of the photovoltaic system at his house & pyramid image investment chart from Bobbi which shows where to invest money into energy renewables and efficiencies.

(Kathy left for 12 noon wisline)

4. Ashland County Fair

- Illnesses postponed last Fair meeting.
- George wants Land Conservation to put together entrance at fair.
- Kathy talked to Pete about National Guard, Pete put it on hold because of \$1,800 worth of fuel. Talk to Highway and Land Conservation departments.

5. Broadband Update

- Tom planning on setting up next regional broadband meeting.
- Hoping to have a contractor from Eagle River, WI area come up and see our area's needs, and if she could provide something to fulfill those needs, their company uses towers, not Satellites or buried fiber.
- Public/private partnership would be for underserved areas, so rural areas.
- The Bad River Tribe has ownership of some lines from Hurley to Duluth, along Hwy 2.

6. Approval of Vouchers

The list of paid vouchers was reviewed and signed. George moved to approve the vouchers for payment. Kathy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Other Business - None

8. Next Meeting Date

The next committee meeting will be Thursday, February 19th at 9:30am in the Ashland County UW-Extension Office in Room 107 in the Ashland County Courthouse. (Meeting changed to Monday March 2nd at 1pm.)

Meeting Adjourned at 12:13pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Tromberg